

North American Wildlife Conference Committee
Appointed by President Roosevelt
F. A. Silcox, chairman

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Release - Immediate

PROGRAM IS ANNOUNCED
FOR WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

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Wildlife restoration and conservation in all its phases, economic, recreational and social, will be the subject of comprehensive discussion and concrete proposals for action at the North American Wildlife Conference, according to the program announced today by F. A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who was named by President Roosevelt as chairman of the meeting.

The Conference will meet in Washington from February 3 to 7, inclusive, and will be open to all individuals and groups interested in wildlife restoration and conservation. Speakers of national and international reputation will be heard and there will be the greatest collection of unusual displays pertinent to the subject of the Conference ever shown.

For the first time in the history of such gatherings there will be a definite effort to depict in a highly dramatic manner the need for immediate constructive action by all interests involved. Motion pictures, many with sound, will show the dire results of present conditions and point the way to proper methods of improving the situation through land, water and game management. Comprehensive charts, clearly interpreting the status of wildlife will be used by various speakers.

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Two chief objectives of the Conference will be the organization of a general federation of wildlife interests and the adoption of a definite and constructive program for restoration and conservation on a national basis. The general sessions, which will be held in the Department of Labor Auditorium on Constitution Avenue, will open Monday, February 3, with discussions of the present wildlife crisis by qualified speakers from Mexico, Canada and the United States. The meeting will paint the picture of the current wildlife situation.

Importance of wildlife resources to the nation will be set forth from various angles on Tuesday, followed by discussions of measures necessary to achieve restoration.

Wednesday will be devoted entirely to the matter of the development and organization of a proposed general federation of wildlife interests.

The conference committee has proposed that the federation be formed on a continent-wide base of county groups. These will be represented on state federations, and these in turn will have representation on the general federation, which will be organized at the Wednesday meeting of the Conference. Units in the federation will include such members as sportsmen's clubs, nature leagues, conservation associations, farm groups, garden clubs and others interested in wildlife conservation and restoration.

Following the discussion of a general federation on Wednesday, means for the solution of the wildlife problem will be discussed on Thursday and Friday. On Friday resolutions will be in order and it is expected that a definite program for nation-wide action will result. Federation officers will be elected. The general discussion on these two days will deal with two main subjects: First, the place of education in the program, through the schools, extension service, press and radio; second, the place of management, through both private and public agencies.

Running concurrently during each morning of the Conference except Wednesday, there will be group discussions of specific phases of the problem, as follows: Monday, farmer-sportsman cooperatives, fish management, upland wildlife research, group initiative in fish rearing; Thursday, wildlife disease and population cycles research, research in waterfowl problems, pollution; Friday, practical game management, fur resources management, stream and lake improvement.

In calling the Conference, President Roosevelt expressed the hope that from it would come "constructive proposals for concrete action" and cooperative effort to carry them out for the common good. The program announced today is based on this hope, calling as it does for definite unified proposals, and providing for an organization which will enable all interested groups and individuals to cooperate in their common desire for restoration and conservation of valuable wildlife resources.